

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to introduce claims amended during prosecution of the International Application and to remove multiple dependencies from claims 7-10.

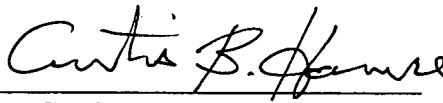
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Dated: 7 September 2004

By   
Curtis B. Hamre  
Reg. No. 29,165

DPM:CBH:hjm